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different things. If an area occupied by houses of two storeys affords comfortable accommodation for one thousand persons, the same space covered with four-storeyed houses would reasonably accommodate two thousand; the surface crowded would be greater, but the amount of cubic space allowed to each individual in the respective houses would remain the same. Where, however, ten persons are found sleeping in a space allowing only 150 cubic feet, there is no difficulty in arriving at the conclusion that they are overcrowded. It is, however, overcrowding in houses that has to do with, whereas surface overcrowding, under the topography of the place, is almost of a little moment. The surface crowding of a regiment of soldiers in the open field. The city has been described as answering to the definition of a straight line, possessing length but without width, with the open harbour in front and the open sea behind it. It is in large cities built on a different plan and in which it is necessary to provide parks and open spaces to serve as lungs. Even in Hong Kong it is of course important that the streets should be of reasonable width and that the houses should be of an accessible air both at the front and back. It is the subject before the Sanitary Board is not surface crowding, but that of overcrowding in houses. The law requires that there shall be three hundred cubic feet of space for each adult sleeping in a house. What the Sanitary Board have to do is to ascertain whether the houses in existence of this proportion, and, if so, to determine the best means of giving effect to the law on the subject. But before the overcrowding of the accommodation must be shown that there is a surplus population in the districts elsewhere. Mr. BAYLOR said that in both the eastern and western districts there were places where the landlords were glad to let at very low rentals as compared with rentals in the central district. He said, however, one of the reasons why these districts were so poor was the Chinese population, namely, that the Chinese did not the same security there as the English centre of the town. It appeared to be necessary to remove this objection by the clearing of the streets, and at Kennedy a new police station has been established.

ment of communication, Mr. Praya seems to have a serious objection. He would be of a service of steam in a tramway. This probably is a fancy of the speaker's, for a very little consideration would show that launches could possibly offer the same facilities as a tram. A person cannot jump on or off a launch as he can on a tram, and if the launch had many stopping places the time occupied between the extreme points would probably be equal to or in excess of that occupied by the other means of conveyance. The Surveyor-General, however, held out the hope that the Praya will be extended and that a tramway laid within five years. When it appears, something or other perhaps will be done to meet the necessity of the Praya, and to exist to the extent supposed, but legislative interference can have only a direct effect so long as there is a deficiency of easily accessible house accommodation in the colony.

**RULES OF PROCEDURE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

At various occasions we have in these columns alluded to the unnecessary waste of time of the Legislative Council involved in the discussion of the clauses of Bills inasmuch as when the meeting of the Committee was over it was the practice, as in all the Imperial Legislatures, to read the marginal notes, but, a few years ago the present practice was introduced, for no reason whatever so far as we have been able to ascertain. It now appears that there are a number of Bills coming on which are mainly by way of consolidation of the law and in which little or no debatable matter and in which the Council the trouble of reading them through word by word the vain expenditure of time is being saved by the Council hitting upon. We call the expedient a device, because notwithstanding the approval of the Special Committee the Council will still have to go to the Committee of the whole to read and unless the practice be discontinued will read every clause at length. The consequence is that a Special Committee is superfluous to a Council cannot be taken as a substitute for any of the ordinary stages of a Bill. As a device it is a waste of time, and of the Legislature's general credit, when a Bill has been read and the Council shall resolve itself into a Committee to consider it clause by clause, to amend it as deemed necessary." It provides that "a Bill may be referred to a Special Committee or to a Standing Committee at any stage of its progress." Clearly the purpose and aim is to afford for a special purpose, and not to afford to override the consideration in Committee of the whole provided for in 1865. If, however, it is possible, be contended that there is any ambiguity about the practice of the Imperial Parliament, we refer to the practice of the Imperial Parliament.

to the ancient practice, all Ordinances are committed to select committees, and not but the most important were referred for the consideration of a committee of the whole house. Every public Bill, however, considered in committee of the whole house, whether it be also committed to a select committee or not, if the Bill is reported from the Select Committee, it is re-committed to a committee of the whole house," etc. When the Bills are sent to the Special Committee on Wednesday next, back, therefore, they will be re-committed to a committee of the whole house, and the Council will be obliged to do so. Whether it will break the useless practice of sending the Bills in *extenso* or go through the same process that has so unnecessarily been done on a Special Committee. It is understood that the Standing Committee require reference to a Committee of the whole, it is possible that the Council may desire to waive this formality, for the reason that he has been requested by the Orders, though they are defeated by himself. They have with effect against an unofficial Committee, but when Governmental matters in question they are treated as a Committee. For instance, the Hon. B. Campbell proposed on the Wednesday (28th) that the first Order of the Bill to amend the Abolition-Ordinance, moved by the General, did not not stand on the order of the day. The Attorney-General said it was not necessary to give no notice the first reading, that there was no

such an examination with youth on his side. Almost any elderly man would be beaten by boys in a school examination, in which the same way that a man who has to earn a living for himself and his family by manual labour might be beaten in a sprint race by his twelve year old son. The "distinguished orator," being one of the old school, would receive his call to the bar in consideration of his being so many years a winner, but his elevation to the bench is no doubt due to his having distinguished himself at the bar. Although it does not necessarily follow that the most successful barrister will make the most successful judge, still as a general rule it is found that this is the case. So in respect of every man the highest to the lowest; the most best fitted for may be excluded by some incompatibility between his qualifications and the particular test imposed, but a competitive system at least excludes the gross incapacity that used to be admitted under the system of patronage and nepotism and ensures ability up to a certain standard. If a better system can be devised, well and good; but we maintain that the system, adopted by the noble drawbacks, has exercised on the whole a generally beneficial influence on education generally, and raised the intellectual standard of the men employed in the public service.

### COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS.

**FLOGGING AS A CRIME CURE.**

The *Singapore Free Press*, in drawing attention to a recent letter by Mr. HOWARD EVERETT to the Times, has given the punishment as a crime cure, recalls some remarks made ten years ago by the then Chief Justice of the Straits Settlements on whipping.

THOMAS SIDGWAYS thought that the extension of this form of punishment would add towards diminishing the prevalence of crime and the increase in the number of criminals. He said:—“I am quite sure that by the extension of the power of whipping we should be able to meet the criminals on more equal terms. They do not care very much for our imprisonment. They come out from their squalid homes, where they do not count such a thing as ventilation, and if we are any they exclude it. They come out to our prisons, and with regular diet, released from bad habits, and perhaps doped with opium, they come out in better condition than they went in, and are the envy of their honest neighbours. They are out in ten weeks or two months the good man who has spent a luxury. I feel sure that if the consequences of imprisonment were diminished and that more frequently made use of, the principal classes of this colony would be much diminished also.” Ever where good discipline is severe it does nothing as a deterrent to the extent of flogging is proved, for the reason that man does not protest itself, but such a violation to the imagination of the effect of corporal punishment. Every one knows that the latter means, but with a criminal sentenced to a short term of imprisonment for the first time, the prevailing sentiment as to the goal is very probably one of admiration and that imprisonment is not so ineffective, and that imprisonment is proved by the free convictions of the same individual. The same sentiment is opposed to flogging, but the sentiment is avowed brutality; but this because it is judged of by instances of its rather than of its use. In former times flogging was inflicted in a brutal spirit of revenge; with the growth of a more humane sentiment a revision took place and the punishment is now looked upon as a deterrent. There are indications, however, of a modification of this view in progress, and of one that disfavours the proper use of whipping springing up. Singapore contemporary aptly remarks that as all medicines may be taken in excess, so all punishments when taken in excess, so all punishment of whipping becomes, if taken in excess, an evil no less culpable than the crime it professes to grapple with. It has to be used, it is not the use, but the measure. Mr. Everett says:

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Ltwistanding that the Standing  
 s' requisite reference to a Com-  
 e of the whole, it is possible that  
 Attorney-General may desire to waive  
 the right, for we observe that he has  
 little to say in the Orders, although  
 were drafted by himself, they may  
 have effect against an individual  
 or some bodies, but when Governmental  
 it is in question they are treated as  
 a letter. For instance, the Hon. B.  
 on complained on Wednesday (28th)  
 the Abolition-Ordinance, moved by the  
 Attorney-General, did not apply on the or-  
 der. But it was not necessary to give no  
 if the first reading, that there was no

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sample of the nonsense that is in opposition to the competition. Let us take the following: The *Graphic* commences an article on the subject of the "Bourgeois" by saying that "a distinguished shining ornament of the Judicial Bench" has been "informed" that his firm conviction that, were it not for him to seek a minor appointment as Majesty's Customs, and to subordinate his talents to the competitive struggle for a tide-watership, he would be a "Bourgeois." Perhaps so, but pronounced a "Bourgeois" and still living home in the Judicial Bench, would not have been a "Bourgeois" at all. The

The main objection that is raised is that the  
 is based on the observation that the  
 crime, and not the nature of the retribu-  
 crime, which degrades. The argu-  
 is summarised in the following effect.  
 The punishment is the most natural,  
 and, and effective. The offender  
 and, and sin, whereas at present,  
 imprisonment is the reward of a winner,  
 punishment is really being to the  
 of the children of the offender. With  
 of this form of punishment  
 crime would be decreased,  
 would become sparsely occupied,  
 money would be saved to the State,  
 by the diminution of jail ex-  
 and, and directly by the restoration  
 of the offender and opportunity of labour of  
 or otherwise would be a burden upon  
 follows.

**POSITION OF PARTIES IN FRANCE.**

informs us to-day (Nov. 29) recent events in France have very serious animosity between especially the Boulangists and the Socialists. Very serious animosity has for some time past, and as the Socialists party now practically includes the Boulangists, the latter have saved the one in power the telegram to enlighten as much, except as to the animosity has become more of the "recent events" had been pardoned and observers would have been in a position to draw their own conclusions. Presumably, however, feeling running very high to have led

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of his supporters." This, no far as we can judge at this distance, accurately describes the character of the Boulanger party as it is constituted, and a very dangerous party it appears to be. There is at present in France a fervent desire for change; the existing political arrangement has not given satisfaction, and a cry has been set up for something new. General BOULANGER has risen into his pre-eminent prominence with this cry, and he carries with him the majority of the popular desire of opinion, who sink for the time their own differences to overthrow the present state of affairs. What is to be set up in its place with them a matter to be decided afterwards.

The Chinese Exclusion Bill in the United States appears to fall with great weight upon Chinamen who have recently returned after a visit to China. An Ottawa dispatch published in our American mail news on Monday, under the case of the unfortunate passengers detained at the British Columbia boundary. They are not permitted to enter the United States, the Canadian authorities insist on the collection of the head tax of \$150 from all who remain in Canada, and the Chinese are in many cases penniless. The bill does not do much for the unfortunate individuals who thus find themselves stranded outside in a strange land, where they cannot remain unless by paying money they have not got, and who are not allowed to proceed to their destination. The Canadian government will not allow them to starve, and will allow them to remain in Canada, but the right of residence without the payment of the head tax or make arrangements for their return to China. The treatment the Chinese are receiving abroad is creating among those of their countrymen at home a feeling of bitterness, and the newspapers are full of bitterness towards foreigners and all things foreign.

nation that is credited with slowly though steadily emerging from a state of economic backwardness, verging very nearly on semi-barbarism. The Chinese of the modern age, presents to the eye, a picture of the most advanced existence and the western civilization. In many a novel feature, the Chinese has many as institutions, be they social, religious, political. The Beggar Chief is an individual, and not a caste, of this vast Empire if not elsewhere, represents a class of people, though entirely unknown in the West. The beggars, nevertheless, an aspect entirely different, and novel in its fundamental principles of life, and the rule of its effective control over the government for the most part of the backward regions. He is, in fact, a living monument of all the various codes of Poor Laws of the "enlightened West," and may be said to be the last of the two-fold functions of the Beggar Chief, as the Protector-General of the beggars, as well as the controller and monitor of the sorry specimens of humanity over which exists an unquestionable and an effective control. In the Empire, at a certain period unchronicled have been, the nuisance created by the beggars, because so intolerable, and the attitude as to the beggars, so aggressive and imminently dangerous, that the Government has been obliged to seek salvation from their clutches by handing them out to the Prefect of Tung Hwa, in whose jurisdiction Hsin Aun is included, and that ingenious official has been obliged to make the beggars "runners as they are called," and to send them out to their certain indentments, to the use of the beggars, and imposed upon them the task of curbing the unrestrained and unbridled growth of the beggars. This is the duty of the Beggar Chief is hereditary, and is passed to the immediate progeny of the incumbent. The Beggar Chief has been a position that has suffered from the enjoyment of any literary education, and is valued through the fact that the Emperor has been obliged to make the beggars so attractive, and the concomitant in the Empire, that the beggars have been relieved therefrom so substantial, that they have been made the mouth water of many a family. He is required to make a mock academic honor of the beggars, and to make a mock of them, as a humble tribute of his allegiance to the high authority from whom he has received his appointment. His equipment duly fulfilled, he is entrusted in the full sway of his authority in one of the divisions of the city assigned to him. The tradespeople, shopkeepers, and petty traders, who are so willingly involved in the detection of this Chief, are not to be considered as the enforcement of the pestiferous fraternity receive a "Eolo Tzu," or what may be termed a New Year's gift, due to the person who appropriates to himself the right of assessing this levy according to his own will, so that the fatter the victim the more the assessment. This precious document, which is surrounded by the most respectable family which the official can designate as prefectures (Tung Hwa Kwan) and the shop or home precincts in the city.

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namers, or to treat it so much as to work upon a process which has been laid out for the past, which has given us such a basis for the Public Law Act, 1875, the National Corporation Act, 1882, and the National Bank Act, 1887, will become efficient. Every Government will think it is better to have a Consolidation Bill introduced to be made a basis of parties than to have a bill introduced to be a opportunity of introduction. I read this passage to show the Council clearly the same difficulties mentioned here if Consolidation Ordinances were introduced for consideration. I intended to re-assert existing Ordinances that the Legislature may have suitable shape to work upon.

CONCURRENCE RESOLVED seconded.

MR LAYTON: Before this Ordinance is seconded, I should like to make a statement from what the Attorney-General has told us just now that it was very

that we should have this explanation. It seems to me that as to what consolidation means, it is a very easy thing to understand. I am not a lawyer, but I am a citizen of the hon. gentleman. It appears that the people in the House of Commons and the people who are not quite certain of the meaning of the word "consolidation" in the Ordinance, it struck me that before this was passed in any shape, it should be explained to the Chamber of Deputies and the community generally. So many of us in it press heavily on various people, and it would be better to take it back to the second reading. I should like to see the explanation of the Attorney-General, whether it is the intention to amend or to bring to an end the Ordinance. I am not sure that I should be at once, as I think the Bill should be amended and amended by the mercantile community. The Attorney-General has told me that the Ordinance is simply to consolidate at the heading of the Bill says "consolidation and amend the law."

**ATTORNEY-GENERAL**—I think it would be better to amend the law. The words "amend the law" were left out.

**THE SPEAKER**—That alters the whole thing. The Attorney-General says that the Ordinance is on the part of the Law Revision on that the words are left in the title. They say in their report there are no

**LAYTON**—It alters the whole thing. The Ordinance are left out. It is then simply Ordinances as we have already but col-



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